

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1751

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007

SINKING OF SUPPLY VESSEL

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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a supply vessel of flagship explorer ONGC sank recently off the Mumbai Coast as reported in 'The Times of India' dated July 10, 2007;
- (b) If so, the exact number of employees of ONGC and other feared dead and the reasons behind sinking of the ship;
- (c) The exact loss of life and property suffered to the Government as a result thereof;
- (d) Its impact on ONGC's offshore operations; and
- (e) The strategies formulated by the Government to check the reoccurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

- (a) & (b) Yes sir. An offshore supply vessel of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) namely Samudrika-10, under Operations & Maintenance Contract with M/s SICAL Logistics Limited sank on 9th July, 2007. All the crew members were employees of M/s SICAL Logistics and there were no ONGC employees on board. A total of 17 persons were on board out of which, 9 persons were rescued by ONGC. Six bodies were recovered and two are missing. The reasons for sinking are being investigated by Directorate General of Shipping.
- (c) In addition to the loss of life, ONGC's cargo worth Rs 1.84 Crore sank along with the vessel.
- (d) ONGC operates around 45-50 vessels to support offshore operations and as such the loss of one vessel has virtually no effect on the functioning of this magnitude.
- (e) All the vessels deployed for offshore operations are certified by statutory authorities for their sea-worthiness